

HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOUR  
CAR BY NOT TOPPING OFF THE GAS TANK.

## Do You Top Off Your Gas Tank?

Topping off the gas tank is bad for both the environment and your vehicle. Why? There are actually several reasons why you should not top off your tank.

- **Gasoline expands.** Gasoline expands when heated. You need a little extra room in your gas tank to allow the gasoline to expand. If you top off the tank, the expanded gasoline may leak into the evaporative collection system of your vehicle or possibly elsewhere. If gas is pulled into the evaporative collection system of your vehicle, the system is saturated and will not work causing the vehicle to run poorly and have high evaporative emissions. You may be also be damaging your car in other ways you do not realize.
- **Gasoline vapors.** Spilled gasoline results in a lot of gasoline vapors. Gasoline vapors contribute to ground-level ozone and emissions of toxic air pollutants, such as benzene. Gasoline is also harmful to breathe.
- **Paint Damage.** Spilled gasoline can damage the paint on your vehicle.
- **Spilled gasoline can run off into nearby surface and ground water sources.** Damage from gasoline and gasoline additives have been documented as being expensive to clean up as well as being able to cause long-term damage to the environment.
- **Extra gasoline may feed back into an underground storage tank.** Gas stations in four Indiana counties have vapor recovery nozzles to help prevent gasoline vapors from escaping into the air. Topping off the gas tank can result in you paying for extra gasoline that feeds back into an underground storage tank because the gas tank on your vehicle was already full.
- **Automatic shut-off nozzle.** Pumping gas after the nozzle automatically shuts off can cause the automatic shut-off to work incorrectly for the next person. Be considerate of your fellow pumpers.